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LETTER FROM CHAMP CLARK

What Audrain Schools Are Doing in Beaver Dam, Burke and Other Districts

W. Clyde Johnson, County Superintendent of Schools, hands us the following this week:

"A neglected school house is a terrible demoralizer. Place a child at a mutilated desk, put in his hands torn and soiled books and we find an almost irresistible temptation to continue the destruction with knife and pencil. Place the same child in a neat, clean room with suitable and beautiful furniture and we immediately remove the temptation for destruction."

As I visit school after school, the truth of the above, clipped from the Vandalia Mail, is very forcibly brought home to me. One year ago, the Gant district painted their desks, and today there is scarcely a new mark or scratch of any kind on them. This year they have put in a fine new system of heating and ventilating. I am sure that the pupils and teacher, W. L. Ballew, will take good care of the heater.

Monday morning, Miss Edna James began her year's work at Washington. I am sorry to say that I saw nothing that had been done to make the house ready to receive her and the pupils. I do not know why the school home should receive less attention than our hog houses, chicken houses, and the like.

At Beaver Dam, Miss Lillian Wooley is working hard, and will have things in good shape, if she has to do the work single handed. She is getting the pupils deeply interested in their work, and is doing much good.

At Burke last year, Ed. C. Offutt succeeded in persuading the board to make a trial investment of \$10 in a library. It worked such good results, they are putting in \$10 more this year, and also have put in a good book case. I wish that the other 89 districts in the county could see the inside of the Burke school, and see what a wonderful change a few dollars spent for paint can make. The building has been painted inside, the seats have been varnished. It looks clean and presents a very attractive and pleasing appearance to him who enters. I am anxious to know the influence this will have on the pupils and their work.

Mrs. Martin resigned at Pleasant Green and Miss Georgia Miller has taken her place. They have made a good start and it looks like they will do some good work this year. The weeds have been cut, and the buildings have been repaired some. They have no equipment of any kind.

At Payne, Miss Effie Simpson teacher, on Clean-up Day they grubbed up a number of sprouts. Here, also the equipment is a negative quantity.

Highland has an enthusiastic young teacher, Miss Mary Zehr. She has four pupils. It will cost the district \$100 or more per pupil to give them about seven months school. Very little has been done to make the house pleasant or fit to receive the pupils.

At Molino, Miss Mabel Cook with the able co-operation of the board, is trying to get her school on the approved list. The weeds have been cut, but a good cleaning up will be required and some

Some Views and Interviews

R. A. Lake: Millions of chinch bugs in the late corn in my fields near Vandalia. I am afraid the chinch bugs will be the worry of the farmers next year. Lately I have been assisting my brother, L. M. Lake, the contractor, in the erection of the new gymnasium being put up at the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico. We got all the steel work in place last week. It's going to be a fine structure.

Garl Lockridge: I have lost my eyesight. Will have to quit farming. I have a public sale next Thursday and after that I'll have to "find a way or make one" in some other line of work other than following the plow.

W. N. Maxwell: I dropped into Mexico last Wednesday on a return trip from Tennessee. I am located at Excelsior Springs, Mo. Seven years ago I lived on Bassford's orchard farm of 2,600 trees. Two of my daughters have fine business positions and the boy had a clerkship this summer. He is working hard at school.

J. J. Wakefield: As a member of the State Board of Agriculture, I was in Sedalia recently to assist in arranging for the big Missouri State Fair. It's going to be the best this year in its history, one of the best to be seen in any State in the Union. I bespeak a large attendance from Audrain. It's going to be a show worth while in every particular.

Turner Barnes: Thompson school opened with 32 pupils enrolled. We like Mr. Shay. Pupils and teacher are joining for the accomplishment of some high class school work this winter.

Rev. A. E. Burch, who was raised near Laddonia, this county, has become a noted evangelist and is holding a great revival meeting at Troy. He is noted for religious work in all the States from Missouri to California.

The annual business meeting of Liberty church, near Thompson, will be held next Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock. Attendance of all members is urged.

equipment.

The Sneed school house is about worn out. They need a new building. The outbuildings are almost new and are good, but are very filthy and need cleaning. They also need equipment. Miss Sarah Culbertson is the teacher.

At Carter, Miss Lucy Lewis, teacher, the house has been painted outside and inside. I like the outside color better than the inside. It is much better than it was, and I am sure that a lighter color would have made the home much more cheerful and pleasant.

Last night I received this much appreciated bouquet:

"My Dear Professor: I write this to encourage you to continue your exceedingly interesting rural school notes which you write for the Audrain papers."

"Of course I take a great interest in everything that happens in my district. I am especially interested in school notes, having begun to teach school before I was fifteen and continuing at intervals until I was passed twenty-six."

"I rejoice that the common schools of Missouri are improving everywhere."

Your friend,
CHAMP CLARK."

MR. GALLAHER SEES BURGLAR

Robber Gets His Pocket-book and a Fine Gold Watch.

About two o'clock last Friday morning J. W. Gallaher and his wife, of this city, were awakened by a strange man in their room. Mr. Gallaher concluded that it would be the better part of wisdom to let Mr. Robber have his own full sweet way. Mr. Gallaher, however, "spoke out in meetin'" and said to his wife, "Just lie still and when he gets what he wants he'll leave." The robber proceeded coolly, carried off Mr. Gallaher's pants, a gold watch and \$19 in one dollar bills, which Mr. Gallaher had placed in his pocketbook the evening before. When the robber had finished his work he walked out of the house. He stopped on the lawn and listened to Mr. Gallaher as he telephoned to the officers.

He was a bold bad robber and so far has kept safely in hiding.

ACTION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

Judge J. D. Barnett refused to dismiss the appeal in the case of the City of Mexico against Dr. J. A. Wren, charged with violating the local option law. The case is to be tried October 2. City Attorney David H. Robertson will be assisted in the prosecution by Judge R. D. Rodgers. The attorneys for the defense are Clarence A. Barnes, E. A. Shannon and E. S. Gant.

The following judgments were rendered against the C. & A. railroad, for damages to live stock: W. E. Cornett, suit for \$268, given \$15; J. W. Brewer, suit for \$118, given \$5; Late Diggs, suit for \$680, given \$80.

MRS. STAPLES DEAD.

Mrs. Elizabeth Staples, 83 years old, died last Thursday afternoon at the home of her daughter, Miss Eliza Staples, near Benton City. Funeral held at Union Chapel Saturday morning.

Mrs. Staples is survived by the following children: David Staples, C. L. Staples, Miss Eliza Staples, Mrs. Alice Hall and Mrs. Sue Patrick. She was a faithful Christian and kind neighbor and friend, and the community will miss her.

Mrs. E. A. Shannon is visiting relatives at Vandalia.

Fred Roberts, near Mexico, is putting the fat on 200 hogs.

Charlie Liebler was here last week. He will attend the University this year.

Col. E. Y. Burton and family, of the Missouri Military Academy, arrived home from Tennessee last week.

At a recent meeting of the Vandalia School Board it was ordered to spend \$50 for present urgent needs. A sand table for little folks in Miss Gooch's room. Supplementary reading books and equipment for each grade and an addition to the agricultural library.

James Love, ninety four years old, formerly of this city, the oldest alumnus of the Missouri University, died last week at his home in Liberty, Missouri.



Time was when the show of heavy horses at the Missouri State Fair was a good bit smaller than the size of the horse warranted. Today Missouri is doing it differently. Watch for the "big boys" at Sedalia, September 26 to October 3. Many of the leading importers will be represented. Then there are liberal premiums limited to Missouri bred horses.

EXPENSE AC- COUNTS FILED

The candidates in the late primary election have filed their expense accounts, as follows:

J. E. Sims, \$77.35.
S. D. Byrns, \$94.25.
Omar Dickerson, \$60.25.
J. B. Graham, \$95.04.
W. W. Botts, \$61.60.
T. B. Ridgway, \$69.25.
Eppa F. Elliott, \$73.75.
Alex. Carter, \$65.00.
C. C. Bledsoe, \$25.00.
Quincy James, \$78.25.
E. A. Shannon, \$54.00.
A. C. Whitson, \$5.00.
J. A. Brown, \$30.50.
Ross B. Cauthorn, \$89.60.
D. H. Boatright, \$32.50.
J. W. Stephens, \$80.50.
C. T. Powell, \$78.20.
J. C. Ringo, \$49.85.
R. H. Brown, \$80.00.
S. A. Puls, \$89.75.
John Burgess, \$39.50.

Audrain Christian Churches.

On account of the rain there was not a large attendance last week upon the annual convention of the Seventeen Congregations of the Christian churches of Audrain county at Midway, north of Mexico. It was developed, however, that Audrain leads in mission work and in the number of C. W. B. M. organizations in the 21 counties, composing the Sixth Missouri District. Rev. J. P. Rowleson of Vandalia delivered a fine address on the Modern Bible School, or Sunday School.

The officers of the Association are: J. C. Mundy, president, Mexico; Joe Dye, vice-president, Vandalia; C. M. Fox, secretary, Rising Sun; W. G. Wilkins, treasurer, Mexico.

Next year's meeting will be held at Liberty church, northwest of Thompson.

Efforts are being made to chase down the robbers and thieves who have been taking too much freedom—and other things in this town. Had J. W. Gallaher been provided with a gun the other night there would likely have been a dead or crippled robber.

Ray Walker of this city is attending business college in Chicago.

ORCHARDS IN AUDRAIN.

Report of the State Board of Horticulture.

The orchard census of Audrain appears in a late report of the State Board of Horticulture. Among the orchardists are the following:

Mexico—J. R. Bell, 44 acres apples; T. J. Bybee, 7 acres apples; T. W. Crawford, 41-2 acres apples; Chas. Green, 2 acres apples; A. G. Gass, 13 acres apples; Robt. Hooton, 41-2 acres strawberries; J. M. Morris, 2 acres apples; J. M. Pease, 2 acres apples, half acre peaches; T. F. Roden, 6 acres apples; Geo. Swanton, 7 acres apples; J. G. Ware, 4 acres apples; Justin White, 2 acres peaches; K. B. Wilkerson, 8 acres apples; E. J. Winter, 12 acres apples, 8 acres peaches, 4 acres pears.

Molino—Mrs. John Beaver, 8 acres apples; J. L. Carpenter, 20 acres apples; M. Householder, 2 acres apples; J. D. Morgan, 2 acres apples; Ralph Adams, 3 acres apples; E. J. Willingham, 5 acres pears.

Laddonia—T. S. Dougherty, 7 acres apples, one acre pears; I. J. N. Smith, 2 acres pears; E. D. Webber, 4 acres apples.

Thompson—Philip Eaton, 10 acres apples; Levi Winn, 5 acres apples.

Martinsburg—J. E. English, 6 acres apples, one acre pears; S. P. Ham, 6 acres apples.

Rush Hill—W. P. Flynn, 4 acres apples.

Vandalia—James Heaton, 2 acres apples; Homer Thomas, 2 acres apples.

Farber—F. P. Jacobs, 2 acres peaches.

B. B. Daniel, southwest of Centralia, who was injured in a runaway some months ago, is able to be up and around with the aid of crutches.

Robert Robertson is attending Westminster College in Fulton.

Several ladies in Ralls county announce that they will be candidates for County Treasurer two years hence. When the ladies get their full rights some of the dear men will be relieved of some of the very arduous duties of office holding. Then how about valued privileges? Back to the farm, O ye gentry!

TAXES RAISED TAXES REDUCED

Mexico Business Firms Suffer Increase of Assessments

The County Board of Equalization was in session last week and considered the tax assessment of Mexico merchants.

The assessment of 18 business firms was raised, while the assessment of four others was reduced.

The list of those whose assessments were raised was as follows:

M. L. Argo, from \$1,100 to \$1,500; Ball & Neal, from \$2,000 to \$2,500; Dawson & Co., from \$600 to \$850; Fredendall & Wilkins, from \$7,000 to \$10,000; Model Bakery, from \$300 to \$400; Griffice & Martin, from \$2,000 to \$2,500; H. Hassen, from \$300 to \$500; Haas-Lieber Gro. Co., from \$600 to \$1,000; Kunkel Bros., from \$1,250 to \$1,500; C. P. Malone, from \$2,000 to \$2,500; Aug. Meyer, from \$500 to \$700; H. Mindar, from \$500 to \$1,000; R. C. Paul & Sons, from \$1,000 to \$1,250; Pollock M. & E. Co., from \$4,000 to \$4,500; Ragsdale Cash Store, from \$5,000 to \$7,500; Steinman & Son, from \$1,200 to \$1,500; Wilkins & Brown, from \$2,000 to \$2,500; F. A. Morris, from \$2,500 to \$3,000; Sam Morris, from \$1,000 to \$1,750.

Those whose assessments were reduced were as follows: R. A. Frey, from \$350 to \$300; Leo Hanly, from \$100 to \$50; E. E. Cantrell, from \$5,500 to \$5,000; B. E. Sims, from \$100 to \$50.

MRS. BURNS DEAD.

Mrs. Lavina Burns, 87 years old, beloved wife of E. P. Burns, died last Friday at her home in West Mexico. The funeral was held Saturday morning, conducted by Rev. R. D. Chinn of Vandalia.

Mrs. Burns was a native of New York. She and her husband came to this county about 20 years ago. The husband survives her, besides one son, M. B. Paige, who is farming west of town. She was a splendid Christian character, beloved by all who knew her. The bereaved ones have the sympathy of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wood are home from California.

E. D. Rickey, of Centralia, through his attorney, H. S. Booth, has filed suit for divorce against his wife, Lula Rickey. The case will come up at the November term of the Sturgeon Court of Common Pleas. He alleges general indignities and other grounds.

Miss Mary Johnston, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Boatman of Mexico, is teaching north of Paris, in Monroe county, this fall and winter. She has a new house, furnace heat and all the late equipment for a rural school. The term is eight months and she gets \$60 the month.

C. A. Witherspoon wrote an abstract for the Fields estate the other day. There were 110 transfers—25 sheets of wills and court records.

Mexico Savings Bank
Capital Stock, \$150,000.00
43rd Year in Business.
W. W. FRY, President.
SAM LOCKE, Cashier.